

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to better define Applicant's invention and claim 3 amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by Grosskopf and claims 2 and 3 as obvious thereover. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. In claim 1 as amended above, the optical element having a periodical structure in a one-dimensional direction is interposed between the deflecting mirror and the lens element. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested by Grosskopf. Thus, claim 1 and claims 2 and 3 dependent thereon are allowable over this reference.

The claims were also rejected as obvious over Osa et al. in view of Kaminsky. This rejection is also traversed. While Osa et al. discloses a polarizing mirror, an optical element and a lens element, that optical element does not have any periodical structure in a one-dimensional direction, nor is it interposed between the polarizing mirror and the lens element. Kaminsky merely shows such an optical element. As a result these references, neither alone nor in combination teach or suggest where to locate the claimed optical element of the present invention and the location claimed is clearly not obvious in view of these references. Thus, claim 1 and dependent claims 2 and 3 also distinguish over these references.

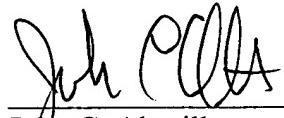
In view of the above, Applicants believe that all claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

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The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,


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